

**Renewable Energy & Eastern Oregon Landscape Conservation
(REECon) Partnership
25 February 9:00 – 12:00
Meeting Notes**

ACTION ITEMS & NEXT STEPS

- Provide letter from Governor’s Office to states agencies to emphasize need for technical mitigation group
- Provide letter from AOC to states agencies to emphasize need for technical mitigation group
- Distribute revised socioeconomic analysis report from AOC
- Provide definition of community sustainability for consideration
- Provide ODFW Sage Grouse Conservation Strategy – draft revisions for public comment (released March 1st)
- Form subset team from Partnership to set up 6 month plan for meetings and goals for Landscape Level Mitigation Discussion
 - Team members named at meeting: Mark Brown-BLM, Cathy McDonald-TNC, John Audley-RNP, AOC?
- Update “snapshot” to capture all relevant documents
- Next meeting will be held last week of March, tentatively Tuesday the 29th

BRIEF MEETING SUMMARY

Welcome, Introductions & Agenda Review

New information & Updates including:

- US DOI – review the context of recently published draft guidelines, guidance and Instructional Memos. Current status of interpretation, public comment & implementation.

Coordinating with all stakeholders upfront is emphasized in order to better determine the level of conflict. The IM’s were created to move renewable energy projects with the lowest level of conflicts forward. To provide clarity, BLM has proposed hosting a webinar on the IM’s --more information to come.

- ODFW Sage Grouse Conservation Strategy – draft revisions

ODFW recently held meetings with counties and other key stakeholders to better understand concerns and to clarify language in Strategy to differentiate between core areas vs. habitat classifications. Starting March 1st, the revisions will be open for public comment. The draft plan will be presented on April 22nd to the Fish and Wildlife Commission.

- USFWS golden eagle survey

The Survey has moved forward, field work/orientation started in February. USFWS is close to securing necessary funding to conduct survey.

- Antelope Ridge – *EFSC process, status of comments*

ODOE completed public information meetings around Antelope Ridge. The next step is finishing review of comments and incorporating them and other findings into the draft proposed order for EFSC. SIP (Strategic Investment Program) being considered to create a tax reduction over a 15-year period to provide more local control of funds.

- West Butte – *“fast track” project*

BLM released the Final EIS in October 2010, working to coordinate avian and bat protection plan to address eagle concerns.

Operating structure for the Partnership

75 minutes

- Review - “Snapshot” of the Effort to Organize the Partnership’s Discussion of Mitigation Issues (*Including an Overview of Regulatory Guidance and Related Documents*)

The “snapshot” was developed to address questions at the last meeting around what mitigation policies and regulatory guidance exists for state agencies. Please review and provide updates to the tables to ensure we are including all “mitigation related regulatory guidance” all “other relevant documents” and “other ongoing processes and data needs.”

- Draft proposal for organizing a mitigation discussion

NPCC proposes that the Partnership continue to meet for landscape level mitigation discussions. A subset of Partnership members will coordinate to set up a 6 month meeting schedule and goals for these discussions. Concurrently, state agencies will meet to have technical level mitigation discussions.

Participants

Meeting Convener: Mike Haske, BLM State Office Deputy Director

Agency

Governor's Office

BLM

BLM

BLM

BLM

Dept of State Lands

ODFW

ODFW

ODOE

OFWO

USFWS

USFS

AOC

AOC

Harney County

CREA

Defenders of Wildlife

The Nature Conservancy

RNP

RNP

Merkley's Office

Attendee

Greg Wolf

Mike Haske

Mark Brown

Kim Titus

Tim Barnes-by phone

Lanny Quackenbush

Bob Hooton

Eric Rickerson

Andrea Simmons-by phone

Joe Zisa

Jeff Everett

Stuart Woolley

Emily Ackland-by phone

Doris Penwell

Steve Grasty

Paul Woodin

Bruce Taylor

Cathy McDonald

John Audley

Lauren Prince

Elizabeth Scheeler

Staff:

Oregon Consensus

Oregon Solutions

Oregon Solutions

Turner Odell

Pete Dalke

Julia Babcock